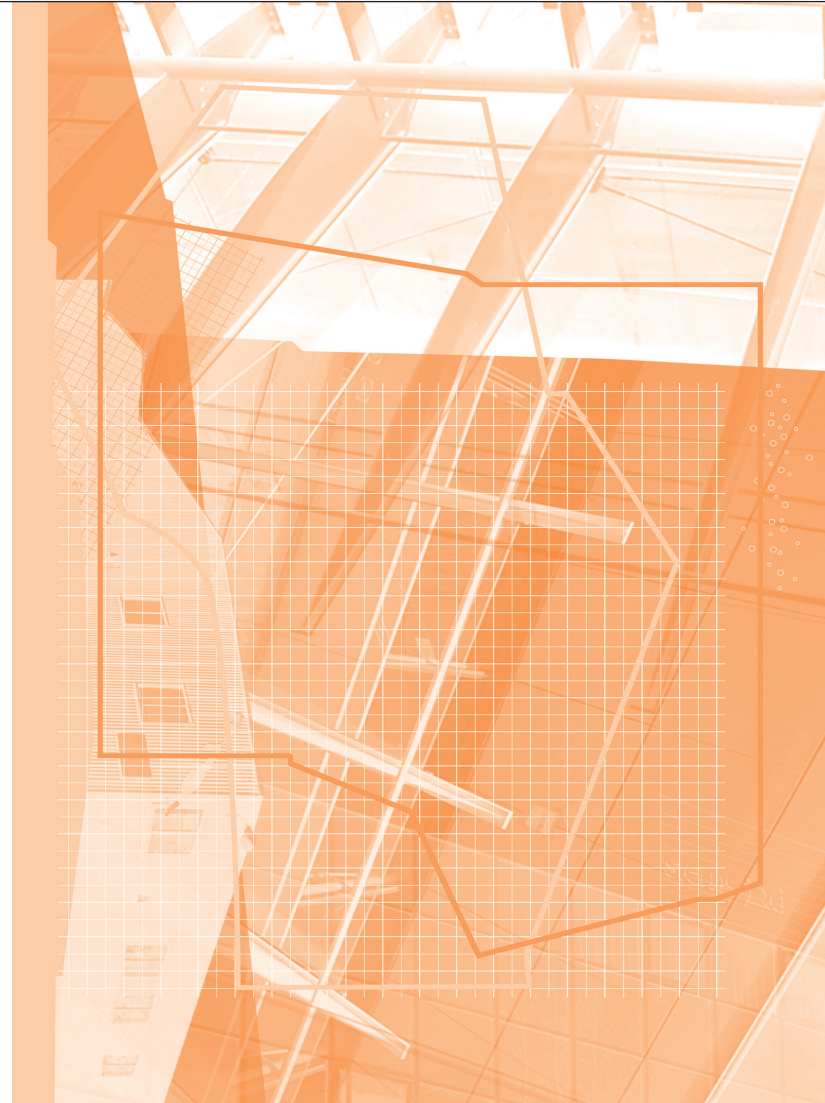


2002 Census of Governments

*Your only source of periodic, comprehensive, and uniform information
identifying and describing all units of state and local government*



U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU



The census of governments provides the only source of periodic, comprehensive, and uniform information that identifies and describes all units of state and local government.

How often is the survey conducted?

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts a census of governments at 5-year intervals as required by law under Title 13, United States Code, Section 161.

What does the survey cover?

The 2002 Census of Governments, similar to those taken since 1957, covers three major subject fields: government organization, public employment, and government finances. Organization data include location, type, and characteristics of local governments. Finances and employment data are the same as in comparable annual surveys and include revenue, expenditure, debt, assets, employee counts, payroll, and benefits. The census covers all state and local governments in the U.S. (Local governments include counties, municipalities, townships, special districts, and school districts).

What methods are used to collect the data?

There are three phases of state and local government data collection.

Phase 1 is precensus research to classify and identify all 87,525 local governments. It includes extensive legal research into government structure by state, as well as a mailout/mailback survey, and produces an updated list of all local governments and selected data.

Phase 2 covers all of the state and local governments, and expands the census year annual finance survey from about 14,000 to all 87,575 state and local governments. It uses in-house data compilations of source documents for many of the state and largest local governments, consolidated data submissions (usually electronic files) for about 55,000 local governments, Internet data collection capabilities, and a mailout/mailback survey of the remaining governments.

Phase 3 covers all of the federal civilian, state and local governments and expands the census-year annual employment survey from about 10,000 to all 87,525 local governments. It relies on consolidated submissions from more than 30 state respondents, an Internet data collection capability, with the remainder obtained through a mailout/mailback survey.

Who uses the data?

These data are utilized by federal, state, and local legislators, policy makers, administrators, analysts, economists, and researchers to measure the changing characteristics of the public sector of the economy. Journalists report on, and teachers and their students learn about, their governments' activities using our data. Internally, the Census Bureau uses the data as a benchmark for all of our noncensus year samples.

There are two primary users among federal statistical agencies engaged in measuring the nation's economic and financial performance: the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Federal Reserve Board. State and local governments use the data to develop programs and budgets, assess financial conditions, and perform comparative analyses.



2002 Census of Governments

The results of the 2002 Census of Governments are being issued in both printed and electronic formats.

Report Series

The printed materials include one preliminary report and three volumes described below:

Note: The issue dates listed below are tentative.

Preliminary Report No. 1. The 2002 Census of Governments

A brief preliminary report, as of June 30, 2002, containing historical comparative counts of government units for the nation by type of government, including special district governments by their function.

Available on the Census Bureau's Web site at <http://www.census.gov/govs/www/index.html>

Volume 1. Government Organization

Vol. 1-1. Government Organization

Data for the nation and by states on county, municipal, and township governments by population size and by services provided; on public school systems by size of enrollment and by grade level; and on special district governments by function. Also shown is the number of local governments, by type, in each county area in the nation.

Released: December 2002

Vol. 1-2. Individual State Descriptions

A description of local government structure in each state is a major feature of this report.

Expected Date: Fall 2004

Volume 3. Public Employment

Vol. 3-1. Employment of Major Local Governments

Statistics on March 2002 employment and payrolls for: all county governments; subcounty general purpose governments (municipalities and townships) having 25,000 or more population; school systems having 7,500 or more enrollment; and special district governments having 100 or more full-time employees.

Expected Date: June 2004

Vol. 3-2. Compendium of Public Employment

Employment and payroll data for the month of March 2002 by government function for the nation, by states, and by type of government. Report also displays summarized data by county area for local government employment and payrolls.

Expected Date: June 2004

Volume 4. Government Finances

Vol. 4-1. Public Education Finances

Statistics on revenue, expenditure, debt, and financial assets of school systems, presented for the nation, for states, and for large school systems having 5,000 or more enrollment. Data describe financial activity in fiscal year 2002.

Expected Date: June 2004

Vol. 4-2. Finances of Special Districts

Fiscal year 2002 statistics on finances of special district governments, by states, and for selected large districts.

Expected Date: Fall 2004

Vol. 4-3. Finances of County Governments

Statistics on revenue, expenditure, debt, and financial assets of county governments in fiscal year 2002. Report provides national summaries, population size-group information, state area data, and displays of all individual county governments.

Expected Date: Fall 2004

Vol. 4-4. Finances of Municipal and Township Governments

Statistics on revenue, expenditure, debt, and financial assets for municipal and township governments in fiscal year 2002. Report provides national summaries, population size-group information, state area data, and displays by individual selected municipal and township governments.

Expected Date: Fall 2004

Vol. 4-5. Compendium of Government Finances

A comprehensive summary of revenue, expenditure, debt, and financial assets for all local and state governments in fiscal year 2002. Report provides national summaries, population size-group information, state area data, and displays of all governments aggregated by individual county areas.

Expected Date: Fall 2004

Vol. 4-6. Employee-Retirement Systems of State and Local Governments

Memberships, receipts, expenditures, number of beneficiaries, and financial assets of state and local government employee retirement systems. Data are shown for the nation, for states and for large individual retirement systems.

Expected Date: June 2004

Products

Public releases include electronic files and Internet tables first, followed by printed reports.

Electronic Media

These data will be available on the Census Bureau's Web site at <http://www.census.gov/govs/www/index.html>.

How to Purchase the Printed Reports

The documents described will be sold by the U.S. Census Bureau, Customer Services Center (phone: 301-763-INFO (4636)); fax: 888-249-7295 (toll free) or 301-457-3842. They may also be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402-0001 (phone: 1-866-512-1802).

Further Information

For further information concerning the 2002 Census of Governments, please contact the Census Management Staff, Governments Division, U.S. Census Bureau at: govs.cms.inquiry@census.gov or 1-800-242-2184.